

Security Message: Spike in Crime in The Bahamas

January 28, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in Nassau advises U.S. citizens residing in and traveling to The Bahamas to be aware of their surroundings and remain on heightened alert to avoid being a victim of crime.

On the night of January 24, several assailants entered the home of a resident U.S. citizen living in Freeport, Grand Bahama and brutally murdered him. During the late afternoon of Saturday, January 25, two men robbed a U.S. citizen couple with an assault rifle at Jaws Beach on New Providence Island (the island of the capital Nassau). The victims were not injured, but were robbed of their vehicle and all of their belongings. Earlier this month, an armed robbery occurred in the Harbour Bay Shopping Center and a local restaurant was robbed by armed assailants at the Caves Village Shopping Center. U.S. citizen residents and tourists frequent both of these areas.

Armed robbery and violent crime remain major threats facing U.S. citizens in The Bahamas, including in areas frequented by tourists on New Providence and Grand Bahamas Islands. In the past eight months, a number of U.S. citizens have fallen victim to armed robbery and two have been murdered. The Royal Bahamas Police Force issued a message last year citing concerns about the increased number of armed robberies in Nassau. Crime statistics for specific islands, as well as all of The Bahamas, can be viewed at: <http://royalbahamaspolice.org/Statistics/>.

In light of this situation, U.S. citizens residing in or traveling to The Bahamas should review their personal security plans. Remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

If you are the victim of a crime abroad (including the loss or theft of a U.S. passport), you should immediately contact the local police (dial “911”). Contact with the Embassy should be made as soon as possible thereafter.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in The Bahamas enroll in the [Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don’t have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's [website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for The Bahamas](#). For additional information, refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and [Google play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In The Bahamas, the Embassy is located at 42 Queen Street in downtown Nassau, and can be reached at 242-322-1181.